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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

**South Carolina Department
of Veterans Affairs**

FISCAL YEAR 1972-73

Submitted by

**Hoyt B. Hill, Jr., Director
S. C. Department of Veterans Affairs
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina**

October 1, 1973

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

CHAIRMAN

Honorable John C. West
Governor of South Carolina

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DIRECTORY OF COUNTY OFFICES

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Abbeville	Charles C. Murrell	Room 203 County Courthouse Abbeville, S. C. 29620	439-2605
Albemarle	Leslie J. Hockman	Room 15 County Courthouse P. O. Box 357 Albemarle, S. C. 29801	644-4011
Albion	John H. Hovell	Memorial Building Albion, S. C. 29810	584-3942
Anderson	Fred S. Whitford	1621 North Main Street Anderson, S. C. 29621	224-3901

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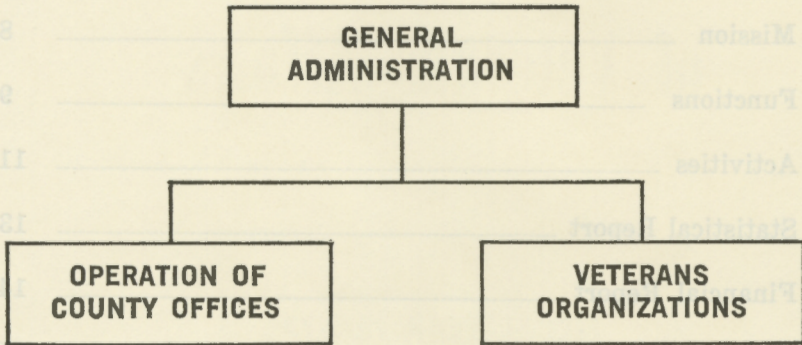
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ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

CHAIRMAN

Honorable John C. West
Governor of South Carolina

Honorable Daniel R. McLeod
Attorney General
of South Carolina

Honorable Robert L. McCrady
Adjutant General
of South Carolina

DIRECTORY OF STATE OFFICE

Location: 1205 Pendleton Street, Columbia, S. C. 29201
Telephone No.: 758-2607

DIRECTOR

Hoyt B. Hill, Jr.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Grady D. Majors

STAFF ASSISTANT

Beverly J. Shirley

CLAIMS REPRESENTATIVES

S. Ralph Ayers
Jane H. Livingston
W. Arthur Neal
David A. Osborn
John K. Tate
Jack M. Tiller

SECRETARIES

Margaret G. Derrick
Nancy H. Goodwin
Erdene P. Haltiwanger
Eugenia G. Watts

DIRECTORY OF COUNTY OFFICES

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Abbeville	Charlie C. Murdock	Room 205 County Courthouse Abbeville, S. C. 29620	459-2608
Aiken	Lucien J. Hockman	Room 18 County Courthouse P. O. Box 357 Aiken, S. C. 29801	648-4011
Allendale	John H. Hewlett	Memorial Building Allendale, S. C. 29810	584-2942
Anderson	Fred S. Winstead	1621 North Main Street Anderson, S. C. 29621	224-3901

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Bamberg	B. Monroe Hiers	109 North Street P. O. Box 416 Bamberg, S. C. 29003	245-2494
Barnwell	W. M. Steinmeyer	Room 101 County Office Building P. O. Box 336 Barnwell, S. C. 29812	259-3676
Beaufort	C. B. Epps, Jr.	County Office Building P. O. Box 97 Beaufort, S. C. 29902	524-3730
Berkeley	Joseph R. West	334 East Main Street P. O. Box 1241 Moncks Corner, S. C. 29461	899-2222
Calhoun	Eldred S. Robinson	Agriculture Building St. Matthews, S. C. 29135	874-3816
Charleston	Thomas R. Johnson, Sr.	Room 322 The Center Charleston, S. C. 29403	577-5111
Cherokee	Floyd A. Queen	County Courthouse Gaffney, S. C. 29340	489-5172
Chester	J. B. Cranford	War Memorial Bldg. P. O. Box 957 Chester, S. C. 29706	385-6157
Chesterfield	W. Arthur Griggs	101 Park Drive Chesterfield, S. C. 29709	623-2482
Clarendon	Lawrence I. Gibbons	Room 203 County Courthouse Manning, S. C. 29102	435-2527
Colleton	G. Herman Kinard	County Courthouse P. O. Box 627 Walterboro, S. C. 29488	549-1412
Darlington	Clarence H. Jordan, Jr.	County Courthouse Darlington, S. C. 29532	393-1051
Dillon	Robert H. Lester	Agriculture Building Dillon, S. C. 29536	774-9681
Dorchester	George W. Thomas	County Courthouse P. O. Box 661 St. George, S. C. 29477	563-3481
Edgefield	Wilbur S. Crouch	County Courthouse P. O. Box 5 Edgefield, S. C. 29824	637-3224
Fairfield	Charles A. Medlin	County Courthouse P. O. Box 456 Winnsboro, S. C. 29180	635-4131
Florence	Mrs. Etta A. Jaillette	City-County Complex Box T Florence, S. C. 29501	665-3045
Georgetown	Ralph W. Hills	County Office Building P. O. Box 306 Georgetown, S. C. 29440	546-7734

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Greenville	John W. Fortner	707 County Office Building 130 South Main Street Greenville, S. C. 29601	242-3910 Ext. 268
Greenwood	Thomas E. Fish	Room 108 County Courthouse P. O. Box 441 Greenwood, S. C. 29646	229-5500
Hampton	Perry L. Chisolm	Courthouse Office Building P. O. Box 476 Hampton, S. C. 29924	943-2258
Horry	A. David Altman	County Health Center P. O. Box 385 Conway, S. C. 29526	248-9021
Jasper	J. E. Horton, Jr.	County Courthouse Ridgeland, S. C. 29936	726-8940
Kershaw	Harold R. Truesdale	Room 225 County Courthouse P. O. Box 691 Camden, S. C. 29020	432-4096
Lancaster	Ward M. Faulkenberry	County Office Building P. O. Box 282 Lancaster, S. C. 29720	283-2469
Laurens	Howard H. Watkins, Sr.	Courthouse Annex P. O. Box 193 Laurens, S. C. 29360	984-4041
Lee	John Z. King	68 North Main Street Williford Building P. O. Box 461 Bishopville, S. C. 29010	484-6622
Lexington	Robert S. Powell	Room 103 Community Building P. O. Box 811 Lexington, S. C. 29072	359-4225
McCormick	Tillman C. Faulkner, Jr.	County Office Building McCormick, S. C. 29835	465-4275
Marion	Joe S. Lane, Sr.	115 West Court Street Marion, S. C. 29571	423-1632
Marlboro	Frank S. Ward	County Courthouse P. O. Box 401 Bennettsville, S. C. 29512	479-2475
Newberry	Gerald C. O'Quinn	Room 11 County Courthouse P. O. Box 217 Newberry, S. C. 29108	276-3233
Oconee	Mrs. Betty C. Smith	Public Services Bldg. Broad Street P. O. Box 262 Walhalla, S. C. 29691	638-2214
Orangeburg	George E. Hoover	County Courthouse P. O. Box 718 Orangeburg, S. C. 29115	534-6484

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Pickens	C. Carl Pilgrim	County Courthouse P. O. Box 451 Pickens, S. C. 29671	878-4778
Richland	John E. Brewer	Room 281 2020 Hampton Street Columbia, S. C. 29204	779-4055
Saluda	Billy C. Coleman	101 West Church Street Saluda, S. C. 29138	445-2184
Spartanburg	M. Frank Edwards	Room 159 County Courthouse Spartanburg, S. C. 29301	585-4811 Ext. 266
Sumter	James W. Scarborough	County Courthouse Sumter, S. C. 29150	775-2346 Ext. 37
Union	Charles V. Blackwood	County Courthouse Union, S. C. 29379	427-3462
Williamsburg	Cecil H. Robinson	Office #6 Courthouse Square Kingstree, S. C. 29556	354-6352
York	Earle B. Gregory	County Office Building P. O. Box 16 Rock Hill, S. C. 29730	327-2956

MISSION

The Department of Veterans Affairs was originally created in 1927, as the State Service Bureau, by an Act of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina for the purpose "of assisting all ex-servicemen, regardless of the wars in which their service may have been rendered, in filing, presenting and prosecuting to final determination all claims which they have for money compensation, hospitalization, training and insurance benefits under the terms of federal legislation relative thereto."

The original Act was amended in 1945 by providing for a County Service Officer (now County Veterans Affairs Officer) in each of the forty-six counties in the state and restating the purpose, as amended, "to insure a stabilization and coordination of the service work for and in behalf of the war veterans and ex-servicemen and women of South Carolina, in order that they may be guaranteed the maximum benefits granted by laws enacted by the National Congress."

These services are extended to eligible dependents, including parents, widows, children and orphans of war veterans and ex-servicemen and women.

There are 307,000 living veterans in South Carolina as of June 30, 1973, and as our veterans become older, more and more of them become eligible for increased service connected disability payments or non-service pension payments. Also, the death of a veteran usually results in a claim being filed by his survivor, or survivors. Our ranks are additionally being swelled by our newly discharged veterans and retirees of the Regular Service.

It is impossible for our claims personnel to know everything about all of the benefits that may be available to veterans, their dependents, beneficiaries, widows and orphans, but we must be able to know where to find the answers. Periodic meetings sponsored by this Agency are held with our County Veterans Affairs Officers each year to keep them abreast of the changing laws and benefits available. These meetings are instructed by the personnel in this Agency and by technicians and officials from the Veterans Administration in Columbia and Washington.

The necessity for personal assistance to veterans in filing and pursuing claims and a continuing information program results from the legal principle that no veterans' benefits are awarded automatically—All Must Be Applied For. The Veterans Administration is not a "hand-out" agency as all claims allowed must be justified; hence, skill and knowledge in service work comes into being when we know what evidence is needed to bring about a favorable decision.

We believe that our record in serving South Carolina veterans, their dependents and survivors is equal to any in the United States. The Veterans Administration does have authority to resolve benefit of reasonable doubt, based on all available evidence, in adjudicating cases and we are, therefore, able to have many "close" cases allowed on that basis.

FUNCTIONS

The primary function of this Department, and the majority of our time is spent, in working with and supervising our forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers in helping them with individual cases in their respective counties.

Other major functions performed by the Department of Veterans Affairs in accordance with the law are as follows:

1. Assist veterans, their families and survivors in initiating, filing and prosecuting claims.
2. Represent veterans before the VA Rating Boards and the Board of Appeals.
3. Publish timely informational bulletins on technical rules and regulations relating to veterans' benefits.
4. Assist and cooperate with all veterans organizations in their work.
5. Conduct Veterans Affairs Officers Schools to instruct in veterans benefits.
6. Maintain complete files on all veterans whom we assist.
7. Assist similar agencies in other states in securing evidence needed in the development of claims.
8. Assist veterans insofar as possible in securing Social Security, Welfare, and related benefits.
9. Assist survivors and morticians in securing burial benefits.
10. Assist all public officials in aiding constituents on veterans affairs.
11. Assist legislators and others in appropriate veterans legislation.
12. Perform a humanitarian service in counseling disabled veterans, veterans' widows, dependent parents and orphans in complete realization of veterans benefits as they best apply in individual cases.
13. Assist veterans in filing applications for review of discharges and in obtaining disability retirement or an increase in disability retirement.
14. Assist in having veterans admitted to the VA Hospitals in Columbia, Charleston, Augusta and other adjacent areas.

A great amount of time is spent by our office personnel in reviewing records at the VA Regional Office, and that work must be done carefully and meticulously, since all of the facts must be known in each case that we handle if we

are to expect to receive a favorable decision. We have hearings each day before the VA Rating Boards and much time is consumed in personal interviews, in counseling and in letter writing.

Claimants must be advised through their County Veterans Affairs Officers, or directly, of what can be done, if anything, and what evidence is necessary to establish a VA claim for monetary benefits. Such work is highly technical and a thorough knowledge of VA regulations and applicable legislation is absolutely essential.

In addition to representing claimants and supervising the work of forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers in connection with VA compensation and pension claims, which is our principle work, we must have knowledge of the many other facets of veterans benefits such as GI training, GI insurance, VA hospitalization, Civil Service Preference, military hospital treatment, PX privileges, the different types of military retirement pay, War Orphans training, outpatient treatment, reimbursement of unauthorized medical expenses, dental treatment, burial in national and VA cemeteries, and a knowledge of South Carolina State legislation as it affects veterans.

The demands for our services come not only from County Veterans Affairs Officers, but by request directly from veterans themselves throughout the state, their dependents and survivors, plus requests from elected public officials in behalf of their constituents.

We also find it necessary to deal constantly with other federal agencies, both locally and in Washington, and at other important government installations over the country. Many contacts by correspondence and telephone with other state agencies are made at frequent intervals. This activity involves a wide variety of subjects, but they are concerned with some problem of vital interest to the person we are trying to serve.

ACTIVITIES

VETERANS' EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE

Due to the large number of returning Viet Nam veterans, a special meeting of all County Veterans Affairs Officers was

sponsored by the S. C. Department of Veterans Affairs on September 21, 1972.

The main speaker and very special guest was The Honorable John T. Campbell, Mayor of the City of Columbia.

Participants on the program discussing special programs relating to veterans' education and employment were representatives from The Governor's Jobs for Veterans Committee, Veterans Education and Employment Program, State Department of Education, United States Department of Labor, State Employment Security Commission and the Veterans Administration.

Other participants on the program were representatives of The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and AMVETS.

COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICERS CONFERENCE

October 31, 1972, was the date of the annual conference on Income Questionnaires sponsored by this office for our County Veterans Affairs Officers and their staffs.

In addition to our county personnel, this meeting was attended by officials of the Augusta, Columbia and Charleston VA Hospitals, the S. C. Department of Education and the Veterans Administration Regional Office.

One of the most time consuming, seasonal functions of this Department is assisting pensioners in filing income questionnaires which are required by the Veterans Administration each year. The laws and regulations of reporting income for pension purposes are constantly changing thus a meeting such as this is an essential part of our work.

Officials of the Veterans Administration Regional Office here in Columbia were in charge of giving instructions for the completion of Income Questionnaires.

VETERANS' APPRECIATION WEEK

The S. C. Department of Veterans Affairs worked closely with the Governor's Task Force on Veterans' Recognition Week which began the last week in February, 1973, and was extended to two weeks.

Additionally, this Agency worked closely with the Governor's Committee which involved a subsequent special Vet-

erans' Appreciation Day at the Carolina Coliseum with host Bob Hope.

ITINERANT SERVICES

This Agency has begun regular itinerant service to the Veterans Hospitals at Columbia, Charleston and Augusta in addition to itinerant service to the S. C. State Hospital where there are approximately 500 veterans and State Park which always has from 10 to 20 veterans in residence.

STATISTICAL REPORT

The following is a report of the number of cases and types of services rendered by the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs and the forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers during FY 1972-73.

Contacts	310,974
Informational inquiry on veterans benefits in person and by telephone.	
Letters Written	168,700
Outgoing correspondence originated in behalf of the claimant in developing his/her claim.	
Compensation and Pension	19,568
A request for consideration for compensation or pension by a veteran or his survivors of any war or peacetime service.	
Compensation Claims Appealed	1,041
Express disagreement with VA rating decision and request for further review of claim.	
Appeal Hearings	300
A personal appearance before a VA rating board by the claimant accompanied by his veterans service representative to present evidence or argue in the interest of the claimant.	
Insurance	5,054
An application for insurance, conversion, reinstatement, waiver of premiums, total disability income and death proceeds.	
Hospitalization	11,960
A request for admission to a VA or state hos-	

pital, either as an emergency or a routine admission.

Burial Expenses	3,510
A request for payment of VA burial allowance to funeral home or reimbursement to claimant.	
Educational Benefits	16,063
Application for education assistance for the veterans and/or the wives, widows and children of veterans.	
Vocational Rehabilitation Training	694
Application for training, including counseling, for veterans with a service connected disability.	
Correction of Military Records and Discharge Change	1,417
Application for correction of military records and change in type of discharge received by veteran.	

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 1972-73

Expenditures

Personal Services	\$117,521
Operating Expenses	
Travel	\$5,285
Telegraph and Telephone	2,523
Repairs	362
Office Supplies	3,494
Rents—State-Owned Real Property	3,852
Rents—Equipment	749
Insurance	105
Contribution and Dues	100
Office Equipment	2,277
	<hr/>
	18,747
Operation of County Offices	323,784
Veterans Organizations	22,105
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TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$482,157

MONETARY BENEFITS

The following is a report of the monetary benefits received by the veterans and the dependent survivors of deceased veterans in the State of South Carolina for the fiscal year July 1, 1972-June 30, 1973.

Compensation:

Living Veterans	\$ 31,914,770
Dependents of Deceased Veterans	12,164,531
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	\$ 44,079,301

Pension:

Living Veterans	\$ 23,811,697
Dependents of Deceased Veterans	18,924,523
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	\$ 42,736,220

Insurance and Indemnities	\$ 9,666,619
Burial Allowances	\$ 1,029,600
Educational Benefits	\$ 29,567,134
Auto Grants	\$ 98,952

Loans:

Direct	\$ 1,427,456
Guaranteed	583,329,717
Homes for Paraplegics	100,000
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	\$584,857,173

Medical Services and Administration Costs	\$ 26,600,193
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TOTAL:\$738,635,192

VETERAN POPULATION SOUTH CAROLINA

JUNE 30, 1973

<i>County</i>	<i>Total Veterans</i>	<i>Vietnam Era</i>
ABBEVILLE	2,425	577
AIKEN	13,846	3,292
ALLENDALE	737	175
ANDERSON	14,736	3,504
BAMBERG	1,320	314
BARNWELL	1,781	423
BEAUFORT	3,438	818

BERKELEY	4,421	1,051
CALHOUN	645	153
CHARLESTON	31,375	7,461
CHEROKEE	4,359	1,037
CHESTER	3,162	752
CHESTERFIELD	3,039	723
CLARENDON	1,320	314
COLLETON	2,272	540
DARLINGTON	5,557	1,321
DILLON	2,272	540
DORCHESTER	2,671	635
EDGEFIELD	1,289	307
FAIRFIELD	1,781	423
FLORENCE	9,118	2,168
GEORGETOWN	3,224	767
GREENVILLE	35,612	8,468
GREENWOOD	6,969	1,657
HAMPTON	1,443	343
HORRY	7,307	1,737
JASPER	1,289	307
KERSHAW	3,745	891
LANCASTER	5,465	1,299
LAURENS	6,232	1,482
LEE	1,044	248
LEXINGTON	11,390	2,708
MARION	2,517	599
MARLBORO	2,088	496
McCORMICK	645	153
NEWBERRY	3,684	876
OCONEE	6,171	1,467
ORANGEBURG	6,109	1,453
PICKENS	7,552	1,796
RICHLAND	32,542	7,739
SALUDA	1,474	350
SPARTANBURG	24,744	5,884
SUMTER	6,386	1,518
UNION	4,296	1,022
WILLIAMSBURG	2,088	496
YORK	11,420	2,716
TOTAL	307,000	73,000

VETERANS RECEIVING SERVICE CONNECTED COMPENSATION _____	20,864	3,913
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VETERANS DRAWING NONSERVICE CONNECTED PENSION____	14,463	46
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CONCLUSION

The State of South Carolina has one of the best set-ups for serving veterans of any state in the nation, and our program has been copied by many other states. At this time, we have in our Agency more than 40,000 files on living and deceased veterans and those files represent a lot of hard work over the years by all who have been connected with this office. The number of veterans assisted by this Agency and their survivors are rapidly increasing as daily inquiries are received from our County Veterans Affairs Officers and others over the state regarding various claims and other benefits.

The South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs staff is the smallest of any similar agency in this part of the country, but the quality of work rendered is excellent. We have extremely capable and dedicated persons in the Department of Veterans Affairs that work untiringly and conscientiously in an effort to give the veterans of South Carolina, their dependents and survivors prompt and efficient service.